



# Overview of New Hampshire State Rail Plan (NHSRP)

The intent of the NHSRP is to help guide rail policies and planning for the state. The New Hampshire State Rail Plan will:

- Provide a current description and evaluation of New Hampshire's rail system;
- Analyze potential rail improvement projects and their funding and impacts; and
- Review factors that affect the state's rail system.

## Tasks

### 1. Goals and Objectives – Public/Stakeholder Participation

The goals and objectives provide the “road map” for the Study Team to follow in the development of the NHSRP.

- Goals
  - Will define the overall purpose and approach for the NHSRP and how the NHSRP will be integrated into the overall State Transportation system plan
- Objectives
  - Will represent specific elements that will be addressed in the final recommendations to achieve NHSRP Goals

Public and stakeholder participation will be an integral part of the development of the goals and objectives.

- Public and Stakeholder Participation Plan
  - Will be developed with NHDOT to include details, timing, and deliverables for the program
  - Announcement of Plan will include goals and objectives of the NHSRP and opportunities available for public participation (e.g., web site)
- Technical Advisory Committee
  - Will consist of primary freight and passenger rail stakeholders in NH
  - Will offer guidance on issues/strategies and feedback on findings
- Other public participation activities
  - Interested party email list
  - Public meetings

### 2. Rail System Infrastructure and Existing Operations – Surveys/Interviews

- Abandonment of rail lines
- Creation of regional and short line freight rail operations
  - Regional -- Pan Am Railways, New England Central Railroad, and St. Lawrence and Atlantic Railroad
  - Short line -- Claremont Concord Railroad, New England Southern Railroad, and New Hampshire Northcoast
- Passenger Service
  - Amtrak Downeaster
  - Expansion of tourist passenger rail services (e.g., Conway Scenic Railroad and Hobo Railroad)



Activities will include:

- Inventory of freight facilities in NH
- Identify bottlenecks and choke points
- Examine rail terminals and intermodal facilities serving NH
- Interview key railroad carriers, shippers, receivers

### **3. Rail Transportation Trends/Commodity Flow**

Assess goods movement

Data analysis using Waybill Sample, FHWA Freight Analysis Framework (FAF), and other sources

- Tonnage
- Carloads, truckloads and number of containers
- Value
- Type of freight (e.g., fuel, consumer goods, chemicals, intermodal, bulk, etc.)
- Major route
- Terminal and gateway (tonnage/value transferred from first mode/route to second mode/route)
- Relevant points of origin, transfer and destination

Forecast future regional commodity flows

- Used in benefit-cost analysis of rail improvement projects

Overview of passenger and freight rail trends

- Ridership
- Safety
- Security
- Costs
- Share use of rail corridors
- Public-private partnerships
- Regional and national initiatives of relevance to NH

### **4. Economic Development and Environmental Impact**

- Quantify current economic, transportation, and environmental benefits of rail
- Develop an analysis of future scenarios of rail activity and the associated benefits and costs
- Compare greenhouse gas emissions (CO<sub>2</sub>) of freight and passenger rail to alternative modes
- Conduct quantitative analysis of land use development, community, and economic development impacts

### **5. Rail System Initiatives and Projects**

Identify potential opportunities for improvement to NH rail system

- Rail preservation
- New capacity
- Policies to support rail

### **6. Investment Strategies – Benefits and Cost**

Assess proposed projects and/or improvements



## Development of State Rail Plan

- Develop evaluation criteria to assess, compare, and prioritize freight and passenger rail initiatives that are to be considered for inclusion in the State Rail Plan
- Conduct benefit-cost analysis to screened rail improvement projects that meet or exceed most of the evaluation criteria

### 7. Rail Funding and Financing

Perform financial analysis to determine:

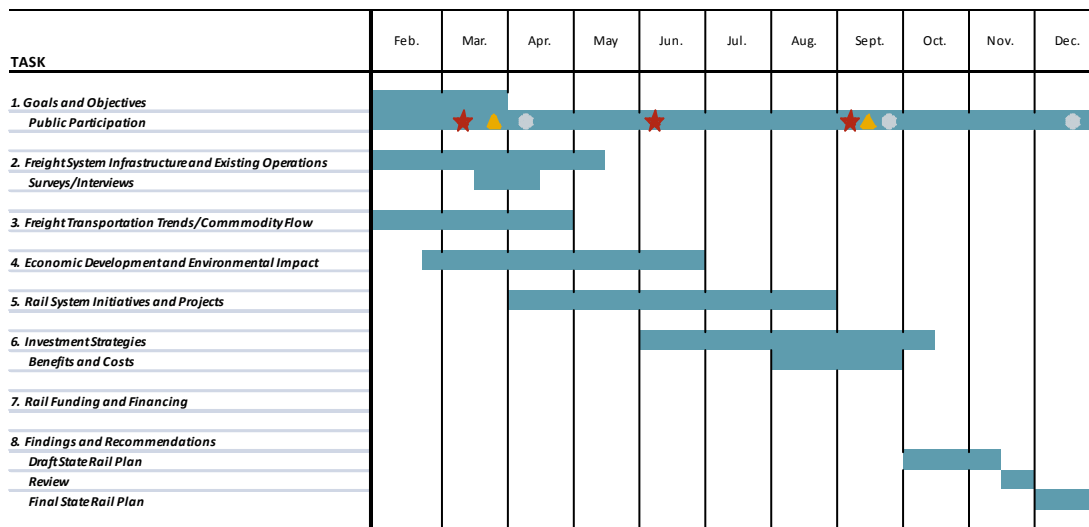
- Existing funding resources
- Funding needs
- Funding shortfalls
- Potential additional sources to address these shortfalls

### 8. Findings and Recommendations

Develop action plan that will include:

- Prioritized near-term and long-term investment strategies
- Consideration of funding options, tax incentives, and innovative project delivery methods
- Implementation of joint public and private partnerships
- Proposed regulatory and legislative changes
- Specific regional, multi-state initiatives that New Hampshire should pursue for partnership
- Changes in public management of the network assesses, and changes in ownership, including public to private and/or private to public transfer or sale of infrastructure elements

## Schedule



Stakeholder Meeting = ★  
 Public Meetings = ●  
 NHRail Transit Authority Meeting = ▲